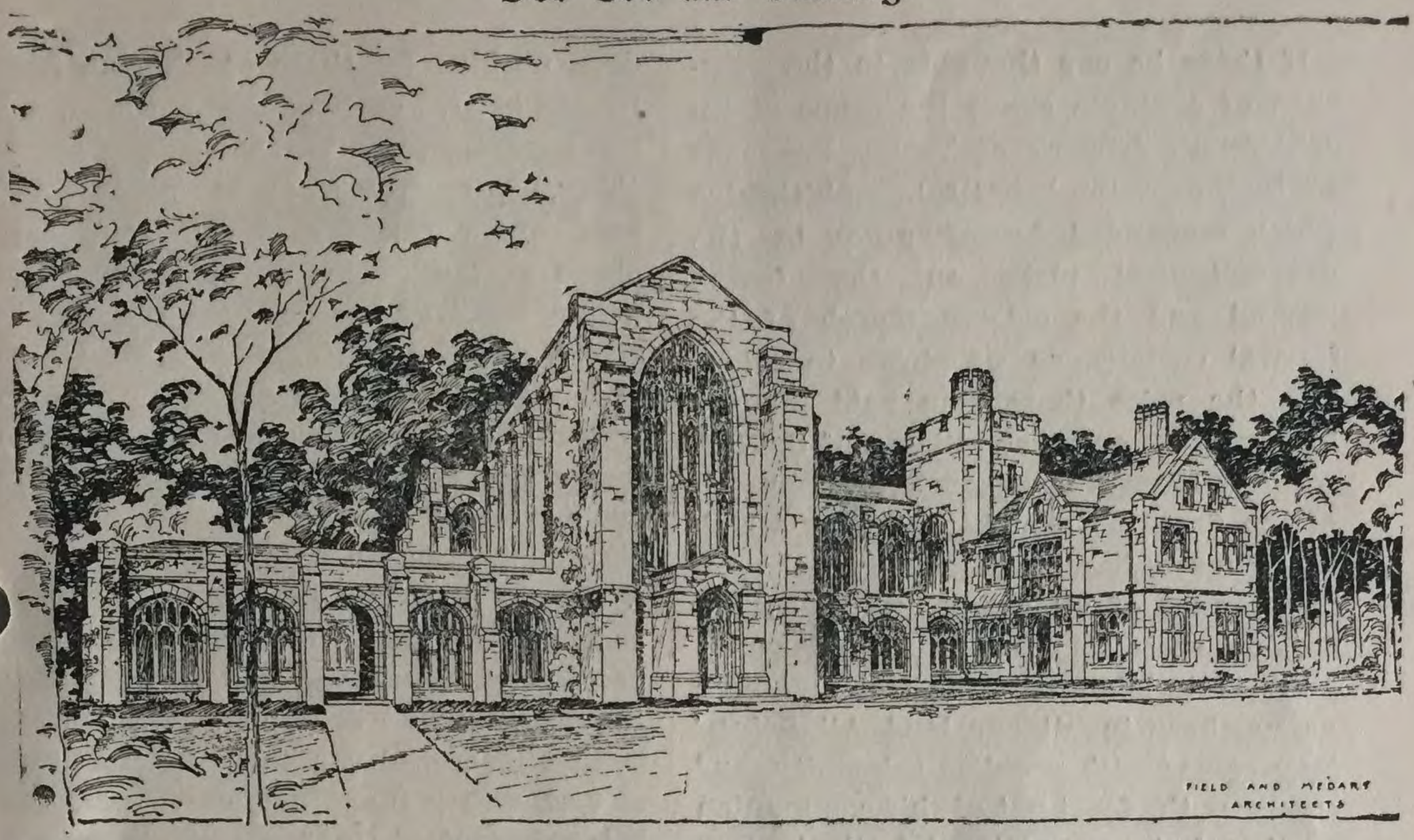
"For God and Country."



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Rectory.

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—Cyrus Townsend Brady.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge,

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

Miss Emma W. Crawford, Editor. Mrs. Robert Wood, Business Manager

25 Cents a Year; Single Copies 3 Cents.

Entered as second class matter, April 22, 1908, at the post office at Valley Forge, Pa., under act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. I. OCTOBER 15, 1908 NO. 7

God's Acre.

The hills of Valley Forge, beautiful at any time, are now resplendent with the autumn tints. These and the falling leaves bring everywhere their message to the hearts of men, but nowhere does the message become more insistent than in this vast national cemetery where lie unnoted the unnamed heroes of the Revolution. For years the plow has turned and turned again the ashes of these men until all the soil is sacred ground and not merely the scattered spots where now rises the shaft or droops the faded flag. Contemplating any one of these nameless graves on which the leaves are falling there comes to mind these lines of the poet, so sympathetic and so true, that they become expressive of the heart's thoughts, and each American may say with him:

"with secret shame
I feel my pulses beat, my forehead burn,
When I remember thou has given for me
All that thou hadst, thy life, thy very name,
And I can give thee nothing in return."

If these be our thoughts in the presence of a single grave the sense of indebtedness deepens at Valley Forge as we look over the beautiful amphitheatre which resounded day after day to the grave-diggers' picks on the frozen ground and the solemn march of the funeral cortege, as we strive to calculate the price these men paid for the blessings we enjoy as citizens of the Republic. Here we welcome the approach of the first of November, the day which the Church has consecrated to the remembrance of all those, "who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labours." We feel that here as nowhere in all our land All Saints' Day comes with peculiar solemnity, and comes as the feast not of this communion or that, but as a national festival. For many will agree with Lowell, who has said:

"One feast, of holy days the crest,
I, though no Churchman, love to keep,
All Saints,—the unknown good that rest
In God's still memory folded deep;
The bravely dumb that did their deed,
And scorned to blot it with a name,
Men of the plain heroic breed,
That loved Heaven's silence more than fame."

All Saints' Day, with its beautiful autumnal setting and sweet spirit of peace, naturally turns our thoughts to our own sainted dead. Already at the Chapel names are graven on the diptychs of our memories, but no one lies near at hand in hallowed ground to sanctify our lives with the remembrance of their virtues and of God's goodness. All have been borne elsewhere to find a resting place for their wearied bodies, worn with their pilgrimage through this world. We have no place for our dead.

This is a serious defect in an otherwise complete plan. We have made provision for the remembrance of those who have died in the far-off past, but have done nothing for those of our own family in Christ. Perhaps that is too sweeping an assertion. We have done something. For many months plans have been under consideration for the purchase of land for a cemetery. The money involved has been the serious obstacle, and yet the sum required is infinitesimal in comparison with the purpose and its centuries of beneficence. No money expended at Valley Forge will be spent more wisely than that given to secure to the Church for all time to come a resting place for its children. Three thousand dollars will purchase all the necessary ground and will provide for the preparatory work on it. What more lasting memorial can there be than the gift of such a tract in memory of some beloved saint of God? Surely there are many who should welcome such an opportunity as this. Who will give to God, to us, and to the generations yet to serve Him God's-Acre?

"I like that ancient Saxon phrase, which calls
The burial-ground God's-Acre! It is just;
It consecrates each grave within its walls,
And breathes a benison o'er the sleeping dust.

God's-Acre! Yes, that blessed name imparts
Comfort to those, who in the grave have sown
The seed that they had garnered in their hearts,
Their bread of life, alas! no more their own.

Into its furrows shall we all be cast,
In the sure faith, that we shall rise again
At the great harvest, when the archangel's blast
Shall winnow, like a fan, the chaff and grain.

Then shall the good stand in immortal bloom,
In the fair gardens of that second birth;
And each bright blossom mingle its perfume
With that of flowers, which never bloomed on earth.

With thy rude ploughshare, Death, turn up the sod,
And spread the furrow for the seed we sow;
This is the field and Acre of our God,
This is the place where human harvests grow!"

The Battle of Red Bank.

Members of the Gloucester County Historical Society were greatly interested in the letter of General Potter, in which he reports the repulse of the British. This is No. 47 in the "Mary Regina Brice Collection" and is an a. 1. s. 4to, 2 pages. Miss Ellen L. Matlack, Regent of the Ann Whitall Chapter, D. A. R., will have a frame made for it of the wood of the British frigate "Augusta," which blew up off Fort Mifflin and sank beneath the waters of the Delaware.

Colonel Christopher Greene and the men under him who were the heroes of the Battle of Red Bank formed a part of General Varnum's Brigade and were encamped between the Chapel and the Star Redoubt. Among the relics in the Chapel collection pertaining to the Battle of Red Bank are a bar-shot and buttons from Fort Mercer, a knee of the "Augusta" and cannon balls taken from the hold. These with the letter of General Potter illustrate this glorious chapter in American history, making its events more realistic to the student. As we believe the letter has never been published we reprint it in full.

Sir:

Before this comes to hand you have no heard of the repulse the enemy met with at Redbank and of there two ships beeing Blown up. It is believed that in one of the ships the lost about 250 men. I understand that the Inhabitants about Grubs Taverant are suplying the enemy with wood and other nessecerys. I will send off a party to prevent that Traid, the enemy has maid a Bridge over Cugdone ferrey and Bult a Briest work on the point of the Hill at the Grave yard and has four field peices on it. I am of opinion that if they cant Get up there ships the will be under the neesesity of Retreating from philadelphia it is reported that the Have Sent over to attact Redbank the British grenadeirs and four Regiments of British and Hessen Troops should they be disappointed In this Attact I think they will give it up. My people have taken 4 Light Horsemen and there Horses and eight fut Soldiers prisoners and Killed a few at Sundery times.

I am your Excelanceys
obedant Humble Servt
Jas Potter

Recd October 27th, 1777.
To His Excalancey
Thomas Wharthon
in
Lancaster
favour of Col Clark
From Coll Potter recd
October 27, 1777

The Wood-Washington Pulpit.

The pulpit will soon be set in place. In a very few days this beautiful memorial will be completed and shipped to the Chapel. It exceeds the expectations based upon the drawings, and Mrs. Allan Wood, Jr., the donor, and all interested in the Chapel, are to be congratulated on the completion of this handsome pulpit.

Churchyards.

BY ARTHUR CLEVELAND COXE.

These lines, from "Christian Ballads," were suggested by a moonlight visit to St. George's, Hempstead, N. Y., in 1840.

1.

I never can see a churchyard old,
With its mossy stones and mounds,
And green trees weeping the untorgot
That rest in its hallowed bounds;
I never can see the old churchyard,
But I breathe to God a prayer,
That, sleep as I may in this fevered life,
I may rest when I slumber there.

2.

Our mother, the Earth, hath a cradle-bed
Where she gathereth sire and son,
And the old-world's fathers are pillowed there,
Her children, every one!
And her cradle it hath a dismal name,
When riseth the banquet's din,
And pale is the cheek at dance or wine,
If a song of its sleep break in.

3.

But our mother the Church hath a gentle nest,
Where the Lord's dear children lie,
And its name is sweet to a Christian ear,
As a motherly lullaby.
Oh, the green churchyard, the green churchyard,
Is the couch she spreads for all;
And she layeth the cottager's baby there,
With the lord of the tap'stry hall!

4.

Our mother, the Church, hath never a child
To honour before the rest,
But she singeth the same for mighty kings
And the veriest babe on her breast;
And the bishop goes down to his narrow bed
As the ploughman's child is laid,
And alike she blesseth the dark-browed serf
And the chief in his robe arrayed.

5.

She sprinkles the drops of the bright new-birth
The same on the low and high,
And christens their bodies with dust to dust,
When earth with its earth must lie;
Oh the poor man's friend is the Church of Christ
From birth to his funeral day:
She makes him the Lord's, in her surpliced arms,
And singeth his burial lay.

6.

And ever the bells in the green churchyard
Are tolling, to tell ye this:
Go pray in the church, while pray ye can,
That so ye may sleep in bliss.
And wise is he in the glow of life,
Who weaveth his shroud of rest,
And graveth it plain on his coffin-plate,
That the dead in Christ are blest.

* * * * * *

11.

Oh bury me, then, in the green churchyard,
As my old forefathers rest,
Nor lay me in cold Necropolis,
'Mid many a grave unblest:
I would sleep where the church-bells aye ring out;
I would rise by the house of prayer,
And feel me a moment at home, on earth,
For the Christian's home is there.

12.

I never loved cities of living men,
And towns of the dead I hate;
Oh let me rest in the churchyard then,
And hard by the church's gate;
'Tis there I pray to my Saviour Christ,
And I will, till my eye is dim,
That, sleep as I may in this fevered life,
I may rest, at last, in Him."

Historical Society of Gloucester County.

Pilgrimage to Valley Forge.

Notwithstanding the gloomy morning and threatening weather, but placing confidence in the weather man, about two hundred people took in the trip to Valley Forge which the Gloucester County Historical Society had arranged for on Saturday last.

The train left the Reading Terminal at 10.30, the party having the exclusive use of three coaches attached to the regular express, the railroad company stopping the train at Valley Forge for this occasion.

A forty-five minute run landed them at the place where ample coach accommodations were in waiting. Washington's Headquarters was first visited, then a mile ride to the Memorial Chapel, where a picnic lunch was indulged in, the free use of the chapel annex and grounds, and a generous supply of hot coffee being given by the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, a former Gloucester countian and the present rector at Norristown, and also at this chapel.

After lunch a meeting of the Society was held in the chapel, President John G. Whittall in the chair. The routine business was omitted.

W. H. Livermore, in a brief eulogy, gave notice of the death of Col. W. H. Snowden, a one time resident of Mullica Hill, but later of Alexandria, Va., an active, earnest and valued member of this society, and moved that a committee be appointed to draft a set of resolutions and that a page of the records be devoted to an expression of our esteem.

Messrs. W. H. Livermore, George W. Hughes, Capt. E. L. Stratton, George E Pierson and John G. Whittall were named the committee. Rev. W. Herbert Burk then delivered the address of the day and told about "Valley Forge and its Historical Importance," in which he earnestly and eloquently portrayed the events that transpired during that eventful winter of 1777 and 1778, and spoke about the suffering, hardships and privations which our revolutionary patriots endured. He also graphically described the trying situation in which Washington was placed, where he was surrounded by Tories or those who had given up the fight and thought the war was ended and who preferred to carry their produce to the British, who were holding high revelry in Philadelphia, to sharing with their starving neighbors and countrymen who were in camp at Valley Forge. He also showed the growing discontent that the soldiers were having and the tendency to desertion and the poor encouragement from outside, even from Congress.

Washington, placing all his trust in an all-wise Providence and following His guidance, did not lose faith, but kept steadily on, encouraging his men, shared their trials and discomforts, gave them military instruction, and in the spring, after losing by death some three thousand men, went out with scarcely any greater number than this and beginning at Monmouth successfully marched on to Yorktown and victory. Valley Forge was the key to the situation and deserves all the recognition that has been given it.

After the meeting the party again occupied the coaches and were driven about eight miles passing the different objects of interest which as they passed Mr. Burk described significantly and interestingly.

The State of Pennsylvania now owns about 400 acres of land and is making great efforts to preserve the old land marks, which after a lapse of 131 years are in a fair state of preservation, even the entrenchments being plainly observable. The drives are splendid, and as they wind around the

hills beautiful scenery is observed on all sides.

Laurel and dogwood grow in profusion and at this season the turning foliage of the dogwood with a profusion of the red berries makes the view gorgeous. This spot is worth a visit at any time and all citizens of this republic should both visit and study about its importance to our National existence.

In consideration of his splendid entertainment and on account of the great respect in which he is held by Gloucester county people and to retain him as one of their number, Mr. Burk was unanimously elected an honorary member of the society.

The party left Valley Forge at 5.31 reaching Woodbury at 7.30, and the day was unanimously voted a success, and no accident occurred to mar the pleasure.—The Gloucester County Democrat, Woodbury, N. J., October 1, 1908.

THE PATRIOT'S HALL.

The Founder's Certificates.

The following have been enrolled in the Book of the Founders and will receive Founders' Certificates:

Lucretia C. Edgar, Easton, Pa. ..	$1.00
Elizabeth B. C. Isham, Providence, R. I.	1.00
Mary J. Hoagland Foster, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	1.00
Elizabeth B. Godcharles, Milton, Pa.	1.00
Margaret Florence Gillinder, Lansdale, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. Mary Emily Pechin, King-of-Prussia, Pa.	1.00
Ann Wagner Pechin, King-of-Prussia, Pa.	1.00
Eleanor Zook Andrews, King-of-Prussia, Pa.	1.00
Philip A. Anderson, King-of-Prussia, Pa.	1.00
S. Alverta Anderson, King-of-Prussia, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. Marion H. Voshugh Ellis, Tunkhannock, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. Sarah Powell Crist, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Mary Powell Crist Hickman, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Dora Harvey Develin, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Gertrude Harvey Whilldin, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. R. W. Hart, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Lizzie G. Corey Gerry, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Mary Evans, Norristown, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. James Edgar Gibson, Ridley Park, Pa.	1.00
Mary Powers Harris, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
	$20.00

Contributions to the Building Fund.

What the States have done or not done to build the Washington Memorial Chapel. Report to May 16, 1908:

ALABAMA.

S. S., Trinity Church, Bessemer....$0.60

ARIZONA.

S. S., St. Luke's Church, Prescott..$2.50

CALIFORNIA.

W. A., St. Mark's Church, Berkeley	$5.00
S. S., Christ Church, Coronado...	5.00
S. S., Trinity Church, Oakland	3.00
W. A., St. Luke's Church, San Francisco	5.00
W. A., Trinity Church, San Francisco	5.00
S. S., All Saints' Church, Watsonville	1.00
A California friend	1.00
The Misses Jones, San Francisco..	2.00
Total	$27.00
Previously reported	$122 00
	$142 00

COLORADO.

S. S., St. Paul's Church, Montrose	$0.60
Miss Anna M. Eyre, Colorado Springs	1.00
Total	$1.60

CONNECTICUT.

S. S., St. James' Church, New Haven	$2.00
S. S., St. Paul's Church, New Haven	18.67
S. S., St. Thomas' Church, New Haven	5.00
S. S., St. James' Church, New London	5.00
S. S., Church of Our Saviour, Plainville	1.35
S. S., Trinity Church, Southport	1.50
S. S., Calvary Church, Stonington	2.78
S. S., Trinity Church, Torrington	2.27
S. S., St. John's Church, Warehouse Point	1.11
S. S., St. John's Church, Washington	1.00
S. S., St. John's Church, Waterbury	5.00
S. S., St. Matthew's Church, Wilton	2.00
Mr. James M. Bishop, New Haven	5.00
Mr. Irving B. Holly, Torrington	5.00
Mr. Frederick J. Kingsbury, Waterbury (Special)	300.00
The Misses Merriman, Waterbury	10.00
Cash, New Haven	2.00
Total	$367.68

DELAWARE.

Rt. Rev. Leighton Coleman, Wilmington	$5.00
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Knight, Wilmington	1.00
Total	$6.00

The Martha Washington Guild is beginning its fall meetings with renewed enthusiasm and activity.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK
MINISTER IN CHARGE,
ALL SAINTS RECTORY, NORRISTOWN.

THE REV. FRANCIS T. H. FINN
ASSISTANT,
PORT KENNEDY.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.

Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.

William Rumford, Sexton.

Sundays.

2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.

Second Sunday of the month, 10.30 A. M. Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.

Stewart Fund Hall

Sundays.

10.00 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 A. M. Service and Sermon.

Calendar.

OCTOBER.

18. St. Luke's Day.
19. 7.45 p. m., Quiet hour for Sunday School Workers, All Saints' Church.
22. 11 a. m., Meeting of the Convocation of Norristown, Calvary Church, Conshohocken.
29. St. Simeon's and St. Jude's Day. 10.30 a. m., Holy Communion.

NOVEMBER.

1. All Saints' Day. Extra service at the Chapel, 10.30 a. m.
4. 2 p. m., Meeting of the Guild, at the Chapel.

Mrs. S. S. Zulich has declined to serve as Chairman of the Chancel Chapter, much to the regret of all interested in the work. She was the first one to manifest an interest in the appointments of

the chancel, and in the early days when the services were held in Blackburn's Hall transformed the place by using her rugs and furniture. When the frame chapel was built Mrs. Zulich lavished her care upon its adornment, and the decorations became a feature of the services. Beautiful at all seasons, at Easter and at Christmas the decorations exceeded those of any church in the county. At Christmas the chapel was transformed into a veritable woodland shrine, as the walls were literally covered with evergreen, while fairy lamps gleamed from leafy niches. At Easter, palms and potted plants made lovely the modest House of Prayer. Such loving service so lavishly expended helped to endear the Chapel to the congregation, and Mrs. Zulich's long and faithful service will be a cherished memory of those who had a part in the beginnings here, while the ideas in decoration which she worked out will remain a heritage of the congregation in the years to come.

There will be Holy Communion at the Chapel on the first Sunday in November as well as on the second. It will be All Saints' Day, and the offerings at the Chapel and at Stewart Fund Hall will be for our God's-Acre fund. Let each one give something as a thank offering for the blessed memory of some beloved one who has fallen asleep in the Saviour's love.

On account of Founder's Week the regular monthly meeting of the Guild was postponed until October 14th.

The choir has secured Mr. Kratz for instructor on Saturday afternoon, and with the improved accustic properties of their position in the new Chancel a marked improvement and renewed interest have already been noticed. The music the last two Sundays has been very hearty and inspiring and the vestments are a credit to Miss McGlathery's supervision.

The Hovenden Tablets.

MEMORIALS OF THE SIGNERS AND FRAMERS.

Among the ever increasing number of interesting objects at the Chapel few exceed in interest the Hovenden Tablets. These have been designed by Miss Martha M. Hovenden, the talented daughter of the late Thomas Hovenden, one of America's most famous artists.

The tablets will commemorate the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Framers of the Constitution. That of the signers has as the central figure the Spirit of Liberty, who holds a scroll with the inscription from the Liberty Bell. In the right and left hand corners are medallion portraits of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration, and George Mason, the author of the Bill of Rights on which it is based. Below these are the names of the signers.

On the other tablet is the Spirit of Unity, holding the arms of the United States encircled with an olive wreath. The medallions contain portraits of James Madison, "the Father of the Constitution," and Alexander Hamilton, its exponent. The names of the Framers are arranged by states, each marked by the state arms.

The fund for replacing these plaster casts with bronze tablets is growing slowly because so few know of the fund or its purpose. It is peculirrly fitting that there should be memorials of both Signers and Framers at Valley Forge, and when this is recognized patriotic Americans will see that Miss Hovenden's work is given the enduring form which it deserves.